



COMPLIMENTARY

A BRIEF HISTORY .

OF THE

HOUSE OF PAHASU,

WHOSE PRESENT HEAD IS

MUMTAZ-UD-DOWLAH

NAWAB MOHAMED FAIYAZ ALI KHAN, C.S.

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This little book is written by a friend of the present Nawáb Sáhib, chiefly with the view of letting those interested know to what family he belongs, as the Nawáb found that many with whom he came into contact here did not know what work his father had done. This friend is alone responsible for what is written, but the book has had the general approval of the Nawáb Sáhib

A FRIEND.



# HOUSE OF PAHASU.



## I.—Account of the family before receiving the name "Lal Kháns."

Nawáb Mumtaz-ud-dowlah Mohamed Faiz Ali Khán, CSI, the present head of the family of the Lal Kháns, is the son of the late Nawáb Mumtáz ud dowlah Sir Mohamed Faiz Ali Khán Bahádur, KCSI, a name well-known to those acquainted with the stirring times of the great Mutiny

2 At the outset it will be appropriate to give a brief account of the Lal Kháns, the distinguished family to which the Nawáb belongs. The family of Lal Kháns had its origin in the times of the Mughal Empire of Delhi, but the family from which the Lal Kháns sprung can be traced much further back than that. To tell how far back it goes may not be uninteresting

3 Ráma, the hero of the Epic Poem, the Rámáyana, and the founder of the Solar Dynasty

of Rájput Kings in India, had two sons, both of whom were born in the house of the sage, Válimika. The name of the elder was Láwa, and of the younger, Kūsha. From Kūsha was descended the Kachwáha clan of Rájputs, of whom the Mahárájah of Jaipur is the illustrious head, and from Láwa was descended the Bargūjar clan of Rájputs.

4. What the fortunes of the family were after leaving their home in Oudh it is not easy to say, but, out of the dim mist of time, in the tenth century, according to Tod, and in the beginning of the twelfth century, according to Cunningham, there emerges a clear historical incident. The legends differ in detail, but in this they agree, that Dhulá Ráo, the head of the Kachwáha clan, having left his kingdom of Narwar-Gwalior, came to Daūsa, and there married the Bargūjar Princess of that place, and succeeded to it.

5. At that time Rájá Maha Singh, Chief of the Bargūjar family, ruled over Deöli, Rájgarh, and other territories now included in the Alwar

State The Raja Maha Singh married a sister of Prithi Raj the last Hindu King of Delhi, and the offspring of the union was a son, named Pratáp Singh. Pratáp Singh is a man worth noting. While he was still a young man his uncle, Prithi Raj of Delhi fell into difficulties and applied to Raja Maha Singh for assistance. In answer to this appeal the Raja sent his son Pratáp Singh to his aid. Pratáp Singh, with his followers, formed part of a force which was sent on an expedition to punish the Raja of Mahoba. While on his way he and his followers came to Pahasu and encamped there. It turned out that the inhabitants around had been greatly troubled with the depredations of a tribe of Minás and as 5 000 of them were in the neighbourhood he was induced to attack them. His operations against this tribe of plunderers were entirely successful, so much so that he was prevailed upon to settle down there, where he married the daughter of Raja Ajit Singh, by caste a Dôr, who was the Raja of Kôl (the modern Aligarh). His wife's dowry was two hundred villages, and besides these he acquired



other possessions. Since that day the descendants of Pratáp Singh have, amid all the changes of time and dynasties, never been wholly ousted from this province.

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## II.—Origin of the Lal Khanis.

6. It is not our purpose to give a detailed account of the descendants of Pratáp Singh; anyone wishing to get a full history of the family may consult the "Memoirs of Nawáb Mumtaz-ud-dowlah Sir Mohamed Faiz Ali Khán Bahádur, K.C.S.I.," by Syed Aulád Ali. We need only state here that there were eight Rájás from Rájá Pratáb Singh to Rájá Lal Singh.

7. This Rájá Lál Singh claims attention. He was the ruler of Chondehra, and received the title of Khán from Akbar, the Mughal Emperor of Delhi, and was afterwards known as *Lal Khán*. It is from this Rájá that the "Lal Khanis" have derived their origin. Lal Khan did not himself become a Mussalman; but his eldest son, Rájá Salbahan, who received many marks

of distinction from the Mughal Emperors, embraced the Muslem faith in the reign of Jahan-gir.

8. We refrain from making mention of many Chiefs of this family who distinguished themselves, both in the times of the Mughal Empire and when the East India Company had begun to play an important part in the history of India, and come to Nawáb Mohamed Faiz Ali Khan, who became the Hon'ble Nawáb Mumtaz-ud-dowlah Sir Mohamed Faiz Ali Khan, Bahadur, K.C.S.I.

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### **III—Nawab Faiz Ali Khan.**

9. Mohamed Faiz Ali Khan was the son of Murad Ali Khan, a Chief who, because of his loyal services during the Mutiny, received many marks of favour from the British Government.

10. Mohamed Faiz Ali Khan was born at Pahasu, the ancestral home, on the 26th August 1821. His education was carefully attended to

in his youth, so much so that by the time he was fourteen years of age he had become proficient in the Persian and Arabic languages.

11. After his education was finished he began to assist his father in the management of the paternal estate; he also managed an estate in the Muttra and Agra Districts belonging to his uncle, and in that way acquired valuable experience which in after years was to stand him in good stead. In the course of events he found himself in Jaipur, and was introduced to the Late Maharajah Ram Singh. The Maharajah took a liking to him, and asked him to fill various appointments, which he did satisfactorily until he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Jaipur forces.

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#### **IV.—Nawab takes part in Quelling the Mutiny.**

12. While holding this important appointment the great Mutiny of 1857 broke out. The Government, hard put to it by the conflagration

which had so suddenly burst out all around, applied to Jaipur for help. The Maharajah loyally responded and in consultation with the Resident at Jaipur, Col Eden, got together a well-equipped force of 1,000 trained men, with 12 pieces of artillery and a camel corps armed with zimburs (swivel guns)

13 The Nawáb Faiz Ali Khan (he had been created Nawáb by this time) was put in command of this force. This small army, led by the Nawáb, and accompanied by Col Eden, marched in the direction of Delhi, and was instrumental in checking the advance to Delhi of mutinous troops from the south

14 On the march the Nawáb became aware that there were the elements of a serious mutiny among his men but notwithstanding that he held on his way, and by his personal bravery overawed the tumultuous spirits he had to deal with. Col Eden's life was in great danger, he was even fired at once, the bullet narrowly missing him. When the Nawáb got to know of it he made such arrangements that the

machinations of the evil-disposed were frustrated. It is to this that Col Eden refers in a letter, dated 3rd August 1859. He says, addressing the Nawáb: " Apart from the fact that, humanly speaking, I owe my life to you, your steady, resolute conduct when in command of the Ráj troops in the field, aided materially in preventing what at one time seemed inevitable—a general mutiny amongst the regular portion of the troops. "

15. His men were tampered with by emissaries from the mutineers at Delhi, so the Nawáb, in consultation with Col. Eden, deemed it advisable not to take them to that place.

16. Good work, however, was done by the troops. At one place two ladies and some children were confined in a village by some ill-disposed Mewátees. They were rescued in a most exhausted condition and conveyed to a place of safety.

17. On the march, at one time, they had to go through a dark and narrow valley in the Gurgáon District. The Thánadár of this place,

who was hostile, had determined to ambuscade the small force here, and only by an accident was it discovered that the valley was filled with armed men. After two hours fighting the rebels were defeated, a large number being killed, the Thánádar himself losing his life in a personal encounter with the Nawáb.

18 While encamped at Sohna a report reached the Nawáb that a number of English refugees were in hiding in a village some distance off. The Nawab promptly detached a force to bring them in. This was safely accomplished, the number rescued being twenty four persons among whom was Mr Donald Stewart, who, in after years, became Commander in Chief of the Indian Army, and subsequently a Field Marshal of England.

19 After this cholera broke out in the Camp, and was of such a virulent type that it was resolved to return to Jaipur. The purpose for which the force set out had been accomplished mutineers on the way to Dehli had been checked and refugees had been saved from perilous situation.

**V.--Recognition by the Government and further services rendered by the Nawab.**

20. In recognition of his services the Nawáb received from Lord Canning, in a Darbár held at Agra, a K̄hilat of Rs. 4,000, and in a Darbar held at Meerut, Lord Canning placed the Nawáb above all the Lál Khánis, presented him with a K̄hilat of Rs. 2,000, and bestowed on him the title of "Khán Bahádur."

21. After the fall of Delhi the Nawáb received the sorrowful intelligence of the death of his father, at Pabásu, and resolved to go there and attend to his affairs. The Maharájah furnished him with a large escort for his protection during the journey. He found the country still in a most unsettled condition, and offered his services at once to the British authorities. He did such good work, that in recognition thereof the Government entrusted him with the management of confiscated Zamindári villages, yielding an annual income of Rs. 11,617, that in them he might re-establish law and order, after the commotion caused by the Mutiny. In a

Darbar held at Bulandshahr, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, Mr Edmonston, presented the Nawab with a *Khilat* of Rs 1,000 and the Sarai of the Zamindar villages, subject to an annual assessment of Rs 4000 in perpetuity, with the remission of a quarter thereof during the lifetime of the Nawab

22 After the Nawab's return to Jaipur it was reported that the notorious mutineer, Tahnaya Topi, contemplated an attack on Jaipur. At once measures were taken to repel this attack, and so effectually prepared did that clever leader find the Jaipur Darbar, that he deemed it advisable to march his followers elsewhere. The Maharajah, in gratitude for the Nawab's services on this occasion granted him a large house in the city near the Tripoliya Gate and the *Jagir* of Wapoor, with an income of Rs 22,000 annually

23 Pandit Sheo Din died in 1863, and the Nawab was appointed Prime Minister in his place.



24. On the 8th December 1869 the Maharajah, in recognition of the Nawab's valuable services, in addition to other gifts, conferred upon him the title of "Mumtaz-ud-dowlah," a title which was afterwards recognised by the British Government, and a notification to that effect was issued in the *Gazette of India*. The title "Nawab Mumtaz-ud-dowlah" was afterwards made *hereditary* by the British Government.

25. In July 1870 the Nawab received the Order of the Companion of the Star of India (C. S. I.) by the order of the Government of India. The Maharajah, himself a G. C. S. I., decorated his Minister with the Order, in a grand Darbar held at the Residency.



## **VI.—Work in the Barodah Commission and Kotah State.**

26. In 1873 affairs in the Barodah State had come to a critical pass. An enquiry was deemed imperative, and the Government resolved

to carry this out by appointing a Commission. The Nawáb was made a member of this Commission, and it is a matter of history how well the members performed the duties assigned them.

27 After the discharge of this Commission the Government of India had other important work for the Nawáb to do. The Kotah State in Rajputánah had long been subjected to the grossest misrule. The disorder occasioned thereby called for the interference of the Supreme Government. It was decided to appoint the Nawáb, with plenary powers, to restore order in the State. The Maharájah was a drunkard, everyone did what was right in his own eyes, lawlessness prevailed, the exchequer was empty, and an immense debt rested on the State. The Nawáb set himself to his task with his usual ability and energy and within 2½ years law and order had been established, and the affairs of the State put into a prosperous condition.

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## **VII.—Honours received: Other Work done: Final Retirement.**

28. In 1875 the Nawáb was invested with the Order of a Knight Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, by His Majesty King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, in a special Durbár held in Calcutta; and subsequently His Royal Highness presented the Nawáb at Agra with a magnificent sword of honour, having inscribed on the blade, in relief, the names of the Prince of Wales and the Nawáb.

29. In the Proclamation Durbár of 1877, he was appointed an Attaché to the Foreign Office, and the Durbár Medals were bestowed both on the Nawáb and his son.

30. The Government of India (special exception having been made in the Nawáb's case), granted him permission to purchase the freehold of his ancestral home of Pahásu, which he did, paying for it the large sum of Rs. 1,40,000. The estate was thus freed for ever from the an-

annual revenue of Rs 1,600 hitherto due to Government

31 On retiring from Kotah the Nawáb was asked by the Viceroy to accept a seat on the Legislative Council. Always ready to go where he could be of service, he took office in October 1877, and for the appointed term of two years was an active member of that important Council.

32 At the expiration of his term of office he felt the weight of years pressing upon him, his public work was done; he wished now to rest in the evening of life. He retired to Pahásu, associated with his early days, and spent what remained of his life in improving his estate, and in doing works of charity among those whom he could reach—a fitting close to a busy, earnest life such as he had lived.

33 He died at Pahásu, aged 73, on the 5th August 1894, and left behind him a large estate, which yields an annual revenue to the Government of Rs 48,866, besides the freehold of Pahásu and the Jagir in Jaipur.

**VIII.—Nawab Mumtaz-ud-dowlah Mohamed Faiyaz Ali Khan, C.S.I.**

34. The Nawáb was succeeded by his only son, Nawáb Mumtaz-ud-dowlah Mohamed Faiyáz Ali Khán, C.S.I. The present Nawáb was born on the 4th November 1851. He is 22nd in descent from Rájá Pratáb Singh, and 13th from Lál Khán.

35. We cannot do better than quote from an article in the *Pioneer* of the 9th February 1900, headed *Indians of To-day* :—

“Nawáb Mohamed Faiyáz Ali Khán, the  
 “present head of the Lál Khánî Rajpūt family  
 “of Pahásu, is about to complete his fiftieth  
 “year, and has been for the past quarter of a  
 “century a model man of his class. Taking an  
 “active and intelligent interest in the affairs  
 “of his tenantry, and ever ready to regard their  
 “interests, he has been in the front of all move-  
 “ments for philanthropic and charitable objects,  
 “and has always kept himself abreast of public  
 “affairs, enjoying equally the respect and the  
 “confidence of Hindus as well as Mohammedans,  
 “and always willing to be of help and assistance  
 “to the district officials.”

36 The Nawáb was elected a member of the Supreme Council and with reference to this the article referred to goes on to say —

‘ His elevation to a seat in the Supreme  
 “ Legislative Council has been a source of un-  
 ‘ mixed satisfaction both to the Government  
 “ and the people. He brings to the Council  
 ‘ Board a sober and practical mind, a judgment  
 ‘ now ripe with the experience of many and  
 ‘ varied affairs, and he is well qualified to inter-  
 ‘ pret to the Government the ideas and feel-  
 ings of the landed interest, which contributes  
 “ so important a quota of the revenue, and  
 ‘ whose hereditary influence on vast masses of  
 “ the population can exercise so potent an effect  
 ‘ on the administration ”

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#### IX — His Benefactions.

37 The Nawáb has inherited the ability and generosity of his father. He has not only greatly improved his ancestral estate, and thereby increased its value, but he has laid out much

money in purchasing land. His generosity may fitly be described as princely, for he has laid aside the income of a large estate valued at over Rs. 65,000 for purely charitable objects.

38. In June 1839 he founded a Rajput Anglo-Vernacular School at Pahasu. He takes a keen interest in education, and wherever help is needed in this direction he is always ready with his purse. He is a Trustee of the Agra College, and is President of the Board of Trustees of the famous Aligarh College. When His Excellency Lord Curzon visited the Mohamedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh the Nawáb had the honour of entertaining His excellency at luncheon.

39. The Government have in many ways shown their high appreciation of the Nawáb. He is an Honorary Magistrate and an Honorary Munsif of Pahásu, is exempted from the provisions of the Arms Act, and from personal appearance in the Civil Courts, and is enrolled in the list of ' Darbáris. '

## **X Representation of the United Provinces at the Coronation of His Majesty King Edward VII.**

40 When the question arose in 1902 as to who was to go to England to represent the United Provinces at the Coronation of His Majesty the King-Emperor, the Government decided to confer this high honour upon the Nawáb. Accordingly the Nawáb went to England, was present at the Coronation Ceremony held in Westminster Abbey on the 9th August, and received at the hands of His Majesty the King-Emperor the Coronation Medal in Buckingham Palace

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## **XI.—At the Delhi Coronation Durbar and Invited to Jaipur.**

41 The Nawáb was summoned to attend the Grand Coronation Durbár at Delhi, and was the guest of the Government during the ceremonies. At the Grand Investiture held in the Diván-i-Am of the Delhi Fort, on the 3rd



January 1903, he was created a Companion of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India.

42. On August the 7th 1901, His Highness the Maharajah of Jaipur invited him to come to Jaipur to assist him in the administration of the State. He was appointed a member of the State Council, especially to help in the Foreign Department, and he now holds that distinguished position.

43. Much more might be added to this brief sketch, but enough has been said to show that the Nawab is worthily following in the footsteps of his renowned father.

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